

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05271 081321Z

40

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 124380

R 081303Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1697

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 5271

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG EINV KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT OIL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KUWAIT 5205

1. JAMES STRAND, MANAGER KUWAIT OIL COMPANY, CALLED DEC 7 TO TELL ME GULF OIL AND BP REPS SCHEDULED TO COME TO KUWAIT FOR NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GOK ON DEC 17. STRAND SAID THAT, AS REQUESTED BY MINFINANCE AND OIL ATEEQI, HE HAD INFORMED GULF AND BP THAT GOK WOULD BE WANTING TO TALK ABOUT OIL PRICES FOLLOWING BOTH ABU DHABI AND UPCOMING OPEC MEETINGS. ATEEQI ALSO ASKED STRAND TO TELL COMPANIES THAT ANOTHER ITEM ON AGENDA WOULD BE DISCUSSION OF KOC OWNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS.

2. STRAND OPINED KOC WOULD BE 100 PERCENT KUWAITI OWNED BY NEXT JUNE. HE THOUGHT KUWAITIS WANTED NEW ARRANGEMENTS ALONG LINES OF SAG-ARAMCO DEAL, I.E. GUARANTEED CRUDE SUPPLIES TO COMPANIES AND KOC TO PROVIDE SERVICES AT A FEE. STRAND EXPRESSED DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT SERVICE CONTRACT HAD MUCH MEANING FOR GULF AND BP. UNLIKE ARAMCO, HE EXPLAINED, KOC MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL DEPARTMENTS WELL LACED WITH LOCAL CITIZENS. WITH KOC NO LONGER

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HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON COMPANY PERSONNEL FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS,

WHAT SERVICES ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

3. WE NOTE ALSO THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IN RECENT REPLY TO AMIRI
SPEECH WHICH OPENED ASSEMBLY OCT 31, LIKELY TO INDICATE THAT IT
WANTS GOK TO PURSUE 100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION OF KOC. CAN ANTICIPATE
THAT LEGISLATURE WILL TAKE ACTION OR URGE GOK TO DO SO SOON,
PERHAPS BEFORE JAN 27 ELECTION, UNLESS PARLIAMENT IS RECESSED.
STOLTZFUS

SECRET

NNN

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